

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) An orally, parenterally, transdermally or subcutaneously administrable pharmaceutical composition containing as an active ingredient the amino acid sequence of the long pentraxin PTX3 consisting of ~~having~~ sequence of residues 18-381 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

18. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claims 17, for the treatment of tumours.

19. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 17, for the treatment of diseases caused by bacteria, fungi, protozoa or viruses, in which said bacteria, fungi, protozoa or viruses show the capacity to bind the long pentraxin PTX3.

20. (new) A method of treating tumors, or diseases caused by bacteria, fungi, protozoa or viruses, comprising administering a patient in need thereof a suitable amount of Pentraxin 3 (PTX3) or a functional derivative thereof.

21. (new) The method of claim 20, in which the sequence of the long pentraxin PTX3 is the sequence of naturally occurring human PTX3.

22. (new) The method of claim 20, in which the amino acid sequence of the long pentraxin PTX3 is the sequence of residues 18-381 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

23. (new) The method of claim 20, in which the tumour is a leukemia.

24. (new) The method of claim 23, in which the leukemia is a mastocytoma.

25. (new) The method of claim 20, in the bacteria is a gram negative bacteria.

26. (new) The method of claim 25, in which the gram negative bacteria is

Pseudomonas aeruginosa or *Salmonella typhimurium*.

27. (new) The method of claim 20, in which the bacteria is a gram positive bacteria.

28. (new) The method of claim 27, in which the gram positive bacteria is *Staphylococcus aureus*.

29. (new) The method of claim 20, in which the fungi is *Aspergillus fumigatus*.